States in export and interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions for initiation of appropriate measures from time to time.

Export of Tea of Russian Federation

*540. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India exports tea to Russian Federation;

(b) if so, the details of quantity Of exported tea to these countries during the last three years;

(c) whether Russia has very recently imposed double import duty on tea:

(d) if so, whether this step has adversely affected Indian exports in tea; and

(e) if so, steps contemplated to neutralise the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMA1AH): (a) to (e) Export of tea to Russia during the last three years have been as follows:--

(Oty. Mn. Kg)
(Value Rs. in crore)

Years	Exports Qty.	Value
1994-95	41.06	271.94
1995-96	68.05	483.80
1996-97 (April-Jan.)	25.41	198.51

Source: Tea Board

Under a new resolution enacted by the Government of Russia and announced by Russian State Customs Committee on 30.4.97, Customs Duty on import of all packet teas (both black and green) will be increased from existing rate of 10% to 20% with effect from 1st June, 1997.

Proposed increase in. customs duty is likely to affect packet tea imports into Russia from major exporting countries including India.

Tea Board in association with exporters to Russia, is. in touch with Russian tea buyers to ascertain extent of impact of new import duty structure and formulate appropriate steps to safeguard interests of Indian tea exporters.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Complaints against private operators of aeroplanes

3959. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private operators Of aeroplane is allowed to carry passenger oh remuneration purpose;

(b) whether such kind of operations have been carried out in Delhi for which the comphints were made;

(c) whether Karson Aviation planes of Delhi are used for remuneration purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM, IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir. In accordance with Civil Aviation Requirements, a private category aircraft cannot be used for -hire or reward or remuneration of any kind whatsoever.

(b) to (d) A complaint was received by the DGCA alleging that the private aircraft owned by M/s Karson Aviation was beign used for remuneration. Although the owner has categorically denied having used the aircraft for any commercial purpose, DGCA, which is the regulatory authority for monitoring the use of such